

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03331 141730Z  
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 L-03 NASA-01  
NSC-05 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01  
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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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DEPT PASS NASA FOR ZOOK

USIA PASS TO ICS/DS PROGRAM OFFICER WALTER FROELICH

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: TSPA, UR, US, OTRA  
SUBJECT: MARS/VIKING PANEL

1. SUMMARY. IN MARS/VIKING PARLANCE, THE ONE-DAY VISIT OF PANEL TO MOSCOW "EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS." PANEL DID EXCELLENT JOB OF PRESENTING STORY OF SUCCESS OF MARS/VIKING MISSION TO AN EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE WHICH INCLUDED ALL OF THE TOP SOVIETS IN SPACE SCIENCE. INFORMAL DISCUSSION FOLLOWING THE FORMAL PRESENTATION REVEALED STRONG SOVIET COMMITMENT TO PLANETARY EXPLORATION AND WIDE POSSIBILITIES FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL BILATERAL EXCHANGES. END SUMMARY.

2. FULL-DAY PROGRAM MARCH 11 BEGAN WITH A THREE-HOUR FORMAL PRESENTATION OF THE MARS/VIKING RESULTS TO A CAPACITY AUDIENCE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03331 141730Z

APPROXIMATELY 400 SPACE SCIENTISTS AT THE SPACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MOSCOW. AN ALL TOO BRIEF HALF-HOUR QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWING THE FORMAL PRESENTATION REVEALED INTENSE SOVIET INTEREST IN THE RESULTS OF THE MARS/VIKING MISSION.

3. SOVIET PARTICIPANTS AT A LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF THE PANEL AT THE

SPACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE INCLUDED FORMER ACADEMY OF SCIENCES PRESIDENT KELDYSH (PRESENTLY DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS), ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY SKRYABIN, SPACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ZOLOTUKHIN, AND A HOST OF TOP SPACE SCIENTISTS ACTIVE IN BILATERAL COOPERATION PROGRAM SUCH AS GAZENKO, SURKOV, AND BARSUKOV. ACADEMICIAN PETROV, CHAIRMAN OF INTERKOSMOS, WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE LUNCHEON BUT DID PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESENTATION AND ATTENDED THE EVENING RECEPTION. TOASTS BY THE SOVIETS AT THE LUNCHEON UNDERScoreD THE UNIVERSAL DESIRE FOR FURTHER US-USSR BILATERAL COOPERATION. AN EXTREMELY LONG AND FLOWERY TOAST BY KELDYSH EMPHASIZED THE BENEFITS OF SPACE RESEARCH IN GENERAL AND BILATERAL COOPERATION IN PARTICULAR AND INCLUDED THE STATEMENT THAT "DEVELOPMENT OF SATELLITES BY BOTH SIDES LESSENED THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE OUTBREAK OF NUCLEAR WAR."

4. THE AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE EMBASSY FOR U.S. JOURNALISTS ELICITED THE HISTORY OF HOW BILATERAL EXCHANGES OF DATA HELPED BOTH SIDES IN PLANNING AND EXECUTING THE MARS AND VENUS MISSIONS.

5. THE EVENING RECEPTION PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INTENSE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE MARS AND VENUS MISSIONS, BOTH PAST AND FUTURE. AS EXPECTED THE SOVIETS WERE NOT SPECIFIC REGARDING THEIR PLANETARY EXPLORATION PLANS BUT REVEALED EXTREME INTEREST IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. ON PRACTICALLY ALL PHASES OF PLANETARY SCIENCE. COMMENTS BY PETROV AND VERESHCHETIN AT THE RECEPTION ON RENEWAL OF THE SPACE BILATERAL AND SHUTTLE-SALYUT STUDY WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03331 141730Z

6. COMMENT: MARS/VIKING PANEL VISIT WAS SUCCESS ON ALL COUNTS. THEIR TECHNICAL PRESENTATION WAS EAGERLY RECEIVED BY LARGE AND HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED AUDIENCE. THE ONLY REGRET WAS THAT THE PANEL VISIT COULD NOT BE EXTENDED FOR A SECOND DAY. INFORMAL CONTACTS WERE EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND PROVIDED BOOST TO ONGOING COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES IN SPACE BILATERAL.

7. SOVIET INTEREST IN AND COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED PLANETARY EXPLORATION WAS HIGHLY EVIDENT. (THERE ARE 1300 RESEARCHERS AT THE MOSCOW SPACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE ALONE.) WHILE SOVIET PLANETARY RESEARCH HAS NOTHING TO COMPARE WITH THE SPLENDID MARS/VIKING MISSION, THEIR DEMONSTRATED CAPABILITY IN AUTOMATED LUNAR ROVING LANDERS AND AUTOMATED RETURN OF SAMPLES TO EARTH OBVIOUSLY COULD COMPLEMENT U.S. PROGRAMS. SOVIET SPECIALISTS, NOTABLY DRS. BARSUKOV, SURKOV, AND GAZENKO, EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST TO PANEL MEMBERS IN THE FORMAL EXPANSION OF CONTACT ON PLANETARY EXPLORATION AND AT LEAST A FOLLOW-UP TO THE BRIEF MARS PRESENTATION. THE SOVIETS MANIFESTED

PARTICULAR INTEREST IN DISCUSSIONS AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION  
ON MARS IN THE CONTEXT OF SMALL WORKING GROUPS OF SPECIALISTS.  
THE SOVIETS OBSERVED AS WELL THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD BENEFIT BY  
ACTUAL PROGRAM COOPERATION/COORDINATION.

8. THE STAGE THUS APPEARS SET FOR FURTHER VISITS OF EXPERTS  
TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL LONG-RANGE COORDINATION OF NATIONAL PLANETARY  
EXPLORATION EFFORTS. A RECURRING THEME DURING THE INFORMAL DISCUSSION

WAS DIVERSIONARY TRAVEL TO THE USSR OF NASA SCIENTISTS ON ROUTE  
TO THE JUNE COSPAR CONFERENCE. (SOVIETS INFORMED SCICOUNS THAT DR.  
HINNERS VISIT WAS PARTICULARLY WELCOME AND PLANNING OF HIS ITINERARY  
WAS UNDER WAY.) END COMMENT.  
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